

Kindly amend the present application in the following respects:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method of preparing differentiated cells from multipotent neural stem cells comprising the steps of:  
(a) [isolating neural stem cells from the tissue of a donor]  
dissociating mammalian neural tissue containing at least one multipotent neural stem cell capable of producing progeny that are capable of differentiating into neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes,  
(b) [proliferating the isolated neural stem cells in] exposing said multipotent neural stem cell to a first culture medium [having] containing a first growth factor to produce precursor cells, and  
(c) differentiating the precursor cells to produce differentiated cells by culturing said precursor cells in a second culture medium having at least a second growth factor wherein said second culture medium is substantially free of said first growth factor.

11. (Amended) A method of preparing precursor cells comprising the steps of:

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(a) [isolating neural stem cells from the tissue of a donor]  
dissociating mammalian neural tissue containing at least one multipotent neural stem cell capable of producing progeny that are capable of differentiating into neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes,  
(b) maintaining [the isolated neural stem cells] said multipotent neural stem cell in a first culture medium containing basic fibroblast growth factor, and

(c) proliferating [the isolated] said multipotent neural stem cells cell in a second culture medium containing epidermal growth factor and basic fibroblast growth factor to produce precursor cells.

12. (Amended) A method of preparing differentiated cells from multipotent neural stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) [isolating neural stem cells from the tissue of a donor] dissociating mammalian neural tissue containing at least one multipotent neural stem cell capable of producing progeny that are capable of differentiating into neurons, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes,

(b) proliferating [the isolated neural stem cells] said multipotent neural stem cell in a first culture medium having a growth factor to produce precursor cells, and

(c) contacting [the] said precursor cells with a substrate in a second culture medium substantially free of said [first] growth factor to induce the differentiation of said precursor cells.

Please add the following claims:

--14. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first culture medium is a defined culture medium and wherein said multipotent neural stem cell is not exposed to serum *in vitro*.

15. The method of Claim 1 wherein said second culture medium is substantially free of serum.

16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said first growth factor is EGF.